

Soviet defector flown to U.S.

AMMAN (UPI) — A Soviet pilot who defected to Turkey last month in a MiG-21 jet fighter was flown to the United States Friday after U.S. authorities agreed to grant him asylum, the Foreign Ministry said. Ministry spokesman Izzat Battah told the AP that Soviet air force Captain Alexander Zayev was handed over to U.S. officials during the night and that he left Turkey aboard a U.S. military plane at 3:30 a.m. (0300 GMT). Turkey's decision to immediately return the jetfighter to the Soviet Union dismayed U.S. authorities who hoped Turkey would permit them to inspect the aircraft and its advanced technology. Zayev landed the aircraft at the airport of the Black Sea coastal city of Trabzon May 29 and requested political asylum in the United States. The Soviet Union immediately asked Turkish officials to extradite the pilot, saying he stole the jet fighter and shot and wounded a sentry guarding the aircraft at Taksimayis airport. Turkey, Thursday officially rejected the Soviet extradition request and released his asylum petition to the U.S. embassy, Soviet Ambassador Albert Chernov expressed disappointment over the decision to let the pilot go in the United States and said the Soviet Union would now ask U.S. authorities to extradite him.

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Jordan Times

An independent rival political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

NDP sweeps Egyptian votes

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) won a clear sweep Friday in election results for the Shura Council, a consultative body that recommends laws to parliament. Interior Minister Zaki Badr told a news conference that NDP members won 143 seats — all those in which Thursday's voting produced a result. Badr said that run-off votes would be held next Thursday for the remaining 10 of the 153 seats being contested because no candidate captured the required 51 per cent support. But opposition candidates were eliminated from those races and each of the second-round contests will be between a pair of NDP rivals. President Hosni Mubarak will appoint 86 members to the council and the rest of the 250 seats have already been filled by candidates who were not opposed. About 10 million people voted of the 14.4 million eligible. The NDP's main challenger, the banned but tolerated Muslim Brotherhood party running in alliance with the Socialist Labour Party (SLP) and the Liberal Socialist Party (LSP) failed to secure any seats.

Jordan celebrates two national anniversaries

AMMAN (U.T.) — Jordan Saturday celebrates the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day anniversaries commemorating the endeavours of the leaders of the Great Arab Revolt and their armed forces in their struggle to achieve liberation, unity and independence for the Arab Nation.

A statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the revolt, led by Sharif Hussein bin Ali, broke out in 1916 to bring liberation and freedom for all Arabs from colonial rule.

The statement paid tribute to the sacrifices made by the Hashemite leaders towards national causes in general and Palestine in particular and said these leaders continued the struggle regardless of the arbitrary measures of the then British colonial rule. It said that the late King

Abdullah, Ibn Al Hussein was able to save large parts of Palestine and East Jordan from British-Zionist plans for the implementation of the Balfour Declaration.

In the commitment to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, King Abdullah responded to the will and desires of the peoples on both banks of the River Jordan for unity, thus taking an important step towards an overall unity among Arab states, the statement noted.

It said that the East-West Bank unity of 1950 serves as an example to other Arab states and constituted a nucleus for pan-Arab unity. The Great Arab Revolt's principles, the statement said, serve as a course of action for Arabs seeking to pool their resources and their potential to enhance Arab solidarity.

On the occasion of the two anniversaries, King Hussein re-

ceived congratulatory cables expressing allegiance to the Hashemite leadership and good wishes for Jordan. Cables were sent by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid ibn Shaker, the Upper House of Parliament speaker, the Greater Amman mayor, the chief Islamic justice, the directors of the Public Security Department, the Intelligence Department, and the Civil Defence Department.

The King also received a cable from Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb. In his cable Taleb said: "The Great Arab Revolt, which your late grandfather Al Hussein ibn Ali launched against poverty, injustice, and ignorance, constituted the bases of Arab renaissance. This revolt resuscitated nationalist feelings, quest for freedom, and aspiration for a honourable life."

Reviewing the efforts King



HM King Hussein

Abdullah had exerted to establish the Arab army and his martyrdom in the Holy Land. Abu Taleb paid tribute to the special attention King Hussein gives to the development of the army. Abu Taleb pledged sincerity to the noble principles of the revolt.

U.S. vetoes U.N. draft condemning Israeli practices in occupied lands

Strike marks 19th month of uprising

Combined agency dispatches

THE PALESTINIAN uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip entered its 19th month Friday with a massive general strike that paralysed most of the occupied territories.

At the United Nations, the U.S., for the second time in four months, vetoed a Security Council resolution condemning Israel's often brutal handling of the uprising.

Palestinians in Arab Jerusalem and the occupied territories staged a general strike to mark the anniversary of the intifada which erupted in December 1987. Since then at least 511 Palestinians have died.

An Arab summit in Casablanca last month entrusted the heads of state of the three countries with mediating a solution to the crisis in Lebanon within six months.

Details of the foreign ministers' discussions were not disclosed, but Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said after a meeting in Jeddah Wednesday that the three ministers will travel to Damascus and Baghdad for talks on the issue.

He said they would also contact the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

At the United Nations, the U.S. argued

Vetoing Friday's Security Council resolution, the United States said the draft, supported by the other 14 members of the council, was unbalanced.

The United States vetoed a

similar council resolution in February.

Last month it blocked the issuing of a council statement on the same subject because it did not include an appeal for restraint by Palestinians as well as Israel.

The United States proposed a number of amendments to the latest draft but they were not accepted by the seven non-aligned members of the council who sponsored it.

During the debate, which began Tuesday, a steady stream of speakers condemned Israel's actions in suppressing the intifada.

They also criticised violence by some of the 70,000 Israeli settlers living among the Palestinians in the occupied territories and compared the issuing by some settlements of "foreign worker" identity tags to Palestinian labourers to the yellow stars of David Jews were forced to wear under the Nazis.

A number of speakers also referred to a recent report that some Israeli soldiers had used pages torn from a Koran as toilet paper.

The vetoed resolution would have condemned "those policies and practices of Israel... which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory, as well as vigilante attacks against Palestinian towns and villages and desecration of the Holy Koran."

King receives Arafat's message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday received a message from Palestine President Yasser Arafat dealing with Palestinian-Jordanian policy coordination vis-a-vis the Middle East question.

The message was delivered to the King by Hani Al Hasan, Arafat's political advisor.

Carbomb kills 4 in west Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A carbomb killed at least four people and injured three in west Beirut Friday and gunners shelled ports north of the Lebanese capital.

Arab League mediator Lakhdar Ibrahim was due to arrive in Beirut from Damascus and political analysts said the violence might be timed to increase pressure on him.

Security sources said Syrian-backed Lebanese militiamen fired multi-barrelled rocket launchers and field guns at ports and other areas in the enclave controlled by the troops of army commander Major-General Michel Aoun. There were no reports of casualties.

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The sources said talks would also cover ways to consolidate a shaky ceasefire mediated by Ibrahim May 11 and to end a 11-week sea and land blockade of the Aoun enclave.

The ceasefire halted two months of fierce artillery bombardments, in which more than 360 people were killed.

Ibrahim will meet both Acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, head of a Syrian-backed government, and Aoun, who leads a rival cabinet of army officers in east Beirut, official sources said.

They said he would discuss an Arab League plan for a political

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Deng blesses army assault

PEKING (Agencies) — China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping made a dramatic reappearance Friday after being out of sight for a turbulent three weeks during which the Chinese communist state faced its biggest crisis.

The 84-year-old Deng had been rumoured dead or swept aside until he appeared on state television praising troops who crushed student-led protests and announcing that his open-door economic policies would not change.

Diplomats had been likening the world's most populous nation to a dinosaur without a head until Deng's reappearance, seemingly designed to quash the view that a leaderless China was heading for civil war.

Hundreds of troops took up positions late Friday around universities where the protests began in April. Many students have gone into hiding and left the city since the army violently ended their protests last weekend.

Troops also fanned out through city streets, patrolling on foot and in truck convoys. The Foreign Ministry sent notices to foreign embassies advising that troops would patrol the diplomatic section and suggesting embassies staff stay off the streets at night.

About 50,000 students and supporters staged a peaceful demonstration Friday in Shanghai to mourn the deaths of six people killed in recent anti-government disturbances in the city.

Three provincial capitals also reported arrests Friday as cities across China were wracked by protests against the martial law crackdown in Peking.

The Shanghai protesters gathered in People's Square to conduct funeral rites for the six, who were killed Tuesday night when a train crashed

through a barricade set up on tracks near Shanghai station.

Angry crowds then set fire to the train and fought with firemen and police who came to put it out, injuring more than 20.

In his TV appearance, the diminutive Deng looked frail and spoke haltingly and indistinctly in his rasping Sichuan accent.

He was manifestly less ebullient than on his previous public appearance May 16, receiving Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for what many thought would be the climax of his political career.

Since then China has been in turmoil after student-led pro-democracy demonstrations were crushed by the military with the loss of hundreds, perhaps thousands of lives.

But the communist veteran has again shown he is a great survivor and seems, for the moment, to be still on top.

After the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, he was twice purged, suffering humiliation at the hands of Mao Tse-tung's Red Guards and the wrath of Mao's widow.

Deng, who will be 85 in August, had been widely rumoured to be gravely ill in hospital with prostate cancer.

Wearing a grey Mao suit, he was shown on television flanked by Premier Li Peng and President Yang Shangkun.

Communist Party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang was not shown present at the meeting. The 69-year-old reformist is believed to have been ousted for opposing the crackdown on China's democracy movement.

"Our troops are China's great wall of iron and steel," Deng was quoted as saying.

Senior politburo member Qiao Shi, tipped by diplomats as a possible successor to Zhao, was present at the leadership line-up which the commentator said took place in Zhongnanhai, the party's headquarters in central Peking.

Deng praised and mourned troops

who died putting down what he called a "counter-revolutionary rebellion" in Peking Saturday night and Sunday morning.

Life in Peking was returning slowly to normal in the suburbs Friday. More shops were open and street sweepers cleared piles of rotting rubbish.

Thousands of foreigners had fled the chaos of Peking and aid and investment projects have been put on hold. The killings brought widespread international condemnation of China's rulers.

The killings prompted fears among the six million people of Hong Kong, which Britain is due to hand over to China in 1997 (see page 6).

On Friday it was announced British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe will visit Hong Kong in early July to assess the problems confronting the colony.

U.S.-PLO talks make little headway

TUNIS (Agencies) — The direct talks between the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are approaching deadlock, but both sides seem more interested in continuing their contacts than in acknowledging the stalemate.

U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau and PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abd Rabbo Thursday held their third meeting since December in an attempt to advance the Middle East peace process.

But it appeared evident that the talks were producing no great strides towards finding a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Pelletreau tried Thursday to persuade the PLO to agree to elections in the occupied territories as part of a plan proposed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. The plan calls for allowing Palestinians in the territories to elect representatives to negotiate limited autonomy with Israel.

The elections "should be free and fair, open to the media and outside observers and entail a broad participation as possible," Pelletreau said.

He added that he hoped the PLO would "seriously consider this idea, and that Palestinians and Arab governments will also respond constructively."

In reply, Abd Rabbo restated the PLO's view that an Israeli troop withdrawal from the occupied territories and the installation of a international observer force must come before any talk of elections.

Where Pelletreau suggested progress "through elections to negotiations," Abd Rabbo wanted the elections to be the final step in a negotiated peace process.

The only sign of tension in Teheran during the week-long holiday to mark Khomeini's death has been a greater than usual number of roadblocks managed by teenage militiamen.

Rafsanjani, the leading presidential candidate, is believed to be opposed by radicals led by Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and to face

dissatisfaction over the economy, shattered by war with Iraq.

"There is no room for doubt," Rafsanjani said of Khomeini. "Do not allow anyone to create doubts in you. What has been done is logically correct and according to religious principles."

Rafsanjani praised Khomeini's son Ahmad for running his father's household. "History must remember his role," he said.

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Khamenei says Gulf war peace talks will be successful

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran's new supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, dismissing the possibility of renewed fighting with Iraq, has predicted a successful outcome to peace talks with Baghdad.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said Friday that Khamenei made his remarks in response to a message of allegiance from army commanders, including Defence Minister General Mohammad Hussein Jalali.

"The army... is confident of protecting Islam and the Islamic homeland against internal and external enemies under your command," IRNA quoted the minister as saying.

"This does not mean that there is going to be war or that the ceasefire (with Iraq) is shaky. The negotiations are continuing and will achieve desirable results," said Khamenei.

Little progress has been made in several rounds of talks between the belligerents since U.N.-brokered ceasefire halted fighting in the eight-year long war last August.

Khamenei, chosen as leader of the Islamic republic following the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini Saturday, also holds the largely ceremonial post of president.

Armed forces acting Commander-in-Chief Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has also spoken of a lasting peace with Iraq.

Iran wants priority given to Iraq withdrawing its forces from 2,600 square kilometres of Iranian territory it still under occupation.

Iraq says the clearing of the war-debris strewn Shatt Al Arab waterway, which links its main port of Basra to the Gulf, should be tackled before other issues.

No date has yet been set for the resumption of the peace talks.

Iraqi call

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said Wednesday Iraq was trying to turn the ceasefire with Iran into a lasting peace and to establish stable relations, far away from a possible resumption of war."

Iraq-U.S. ties

Talking about Iraq-U.S. relations, badly affected by the U.S. supply of weapons to Iran in 1986 in the so-called Iran-Iraq affair, Hussein told the group: "Iraq is not the type of a country which deals with the complexities of the past."

The group, led by Robert Abboud, an American of Arab origin, arrived in Baghdad Wednesday on a three-day visit to explore possibilities for investment in Iraq's post-war reconstruction.

The delegation proposed to Hussein a project called "Mesopotamia, the cradle of civilisation," to improve the "mechanism of understanding and contacts between Iraq and the U.S."

Hussein agreed to the project which calls for organising a U.S. tour for Iraqi archaeologists to acquire Americans with the country's ancient culture.

The agency said the talks also covered bilateral economic and trade talks and participation by U.S. companies in Iran's post-war reconstruction.

No details were available.



Grieving Iranians pay homage to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini

Khomeini's home becomes a shrine

JAMARAN, Iran (R) — A simply-furnished, two-room concrete house in this Tehran suburb has become a shrine for millions of Iranians.

"This is the palace of Khomeini," a weeping guard told foreign journalists visiting the house where supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini lived for his last nine years.

The house is spartan for the leader of 50 million people. In one section of the main room, which is divided by a curtain, Khomeini used to sleep.

In the other section, a sofa covered with white cloth is the main item of furniture. Shelves hold the Koran and some other books, a mirror and a television

and radio.

In a second, smaller room, Khomeini recently met Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The centrally-heated house has one toilet. Khomeini and his wife were attended by two women servants.

"Nobody lives now in the house. It will be left as a memorial for ever," said an official of the Islamic Culture and Guidance Ministry.

Since Khomeini died Saturday night at the age of 86, tens of thousands of people have filed past the house which their spiritual leader rented for 60,000 rials (\$310) a month.

The area, where his son and

daughter live in separate houses, is full of checkpoints manned by Revolutionary Guards. The main entrance is monitored by video camera.

Khomeini's house is connected to a small mosque where he used to address crowds of worshippers.

His chair in the mosque is covered with white cloth and bears a large colour picture, draped with a black ribbon.

Women in chadors wept at the sight of his empty chair. Children as young as five joined adults in beating their beads and chests in grief.

Thousands of breast-beating men and chador-clad women continue mourning at Khomeini's grave into the night.

U.S. 'knows of no Iranian hostages'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. officials said Thursday that the United States knows of no Iranian hostages currently held in Lebanon.

The officials responded to a comment by Iran's Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani that the United States must help free the Iranian hostages before Iran could help free Western hostages in Beirut.

"He has made the same statements several times before," White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said. "We are unaware of any Iranian hostages being held in Lebanon. Our position remains the same; that Iran should use its influence for release of the American hostages in Lebanon."

Asked about an appeal by U.S. President George Bush for help in freeing U.S. hostages in Lebanon, Rafsanjani said the United States must use its influence on the right-wing Lebanese Forces militia believed to have kidnapped four Iranian government employees.

Bush said Thursday he had seen no change in Iran's policies since the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and repeated his offer to improve relations if Iran helped free U.S. hostages held in Lebanon.

"Then you can expect us to do what we can for the release of the other hostages, although we have no responsibility in Lebanon," he said, repeating a statement made last Monday, two days after the death of Iran's spiritual leader was announced. "We can't have normalised relations with a state that is branded a terrorist state."

"And secondly they must facilitate the release of American hostages. That is what it would take" to improve relations, he said.

Rafsanjani also said Thursday that Khomeini advised days before he died last Saturday that Iran should improve ties with the Soviet Union.

The speaker noted that ties with the Soviet Union in economic, political and cultural fields were already strong, sides were committed to improving them.

Rafsanjani said the date for his visit to the Soviet Union was not confirmed, although it would take place later this month.

Addressing relations with the Arab States in the Gulf, Rafsanjani said "there is no problem on our side" for improving ties.

"Our goal is promotion of ties and peaceful coexistence," he said.

"We have received positive signals from the Gulf states, except Saudi Arabia," the speaker added.

help bring about the immediate and safe release of the American hostages in Lebanon.

Rafsanjani also said Iran could not help on the hostage issue while Iranian assets are frozen in the United States.

The United States has acted like a pirate... if the Iranian assets are released as a sign of goodwill, we'll return it to do whatever we can," he said.

The United States broke relations with Iran, froze billions of dollars in Iranian assets in U.S. banks and impounded military equipment ordered by deposed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi after radicals seized the U.S. embassy and held 52 Americans hostage in 1979.

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The United States, he said, wanted "a change in relations... we like the Iranian people."

"I stated the other day what would take to have improved relationships, and that would a reconnection of terror," he said, repeating a statement made last Monday, two days after the death of Iran's spiritual leader was announced. "We can't have normalised relations with a state that is branded a terrorist state."

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Vorontsov calls for Saudi-Soviet relations

KUWAIT (AP) — A senior Soviet official was quoted here Friday as urging Saudi Arabia to establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and to arrange a new reconciliation meeting for an end to the Afghan rebel fighting against Kabul.

"I spoke to the Saudi monarch, King Fahd, about the exchange of ambassadors between our two countries when I was in Saudi Arabia. We are still waiting a Saudi response," said Yuli Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister in an interview published in the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Anhaa.

Vorontsov, an ambassador extraordinary to Afghanistan, led the Soviet team for the first face-to-face negotiations with the Afghan rebels during talks hosted by Saudi Arabia last December.

The kingdom, a staunch supporter of the rebels in their war against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul, arranged the talks despite the absence of diplomatic ties with Moscow.

Vorontsov said that the king did not want a Saudi-Soviet alliance to help the rebels during talks hosted by Saudi Arabia last December.

"The Saudi attitude towards the situation on Afghanistan will not affect our relations with it, because Saudi Arabia is not conducting a direct act against the Soviet Union," he said.

Vorontsov said that the fight-

ing in Afghanistan was taking a different turn."

He reiterated Kabul charges that generals in neighbouring Pakistan, as well as American experts and Arab volunteers were helping the rebel forces.

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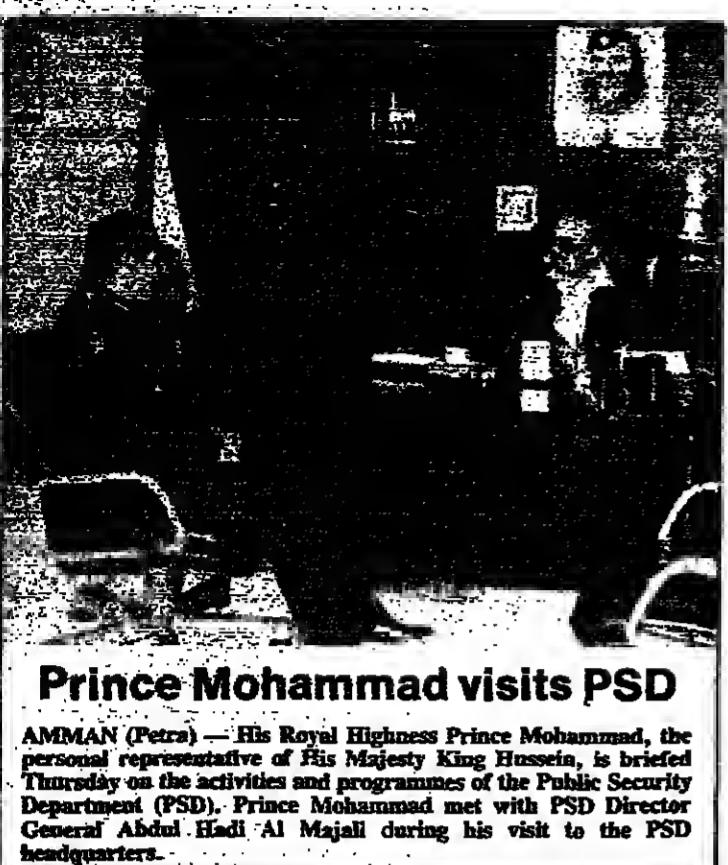
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Prince Mohammad visits PSD

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, is briefed Thursday on the activities and programmes of the Public Security Department (PSD). Prince Mohammad met with PSD Director General Abd Al Majid during his visit to the PSD headquarters.



Graduation

AMMAN (Petra) — The International Baccalaureate School in Amman graduated its fifth batch of students who completed their secondary education. Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath attended the graduation ceremony which was held at the Baccalaureate School and in the presence of the students' parents and relatives, several Cabinet ministers and members of the school's board of trustees.

Princess Sarvath addressed the ceremony, outlining the school's development and its curricula, paying tribute to the school staff and administration for their strenuous efforts which made the school a real success.

Other speeches were delivered by the school headmaster and several graduates.

Princess Sarvath later distributed the diplomas to the 23 graduates and awards to those excelling in their courses.

She also distributed gifts and awards to the members of the staff (Petra photo).



Arab firms to be given priority in road projects

AMMAN (Petra) — A specialised seminar dealing with transport on roads in the Arab World has discussed giving Arab contracting companies the priority to carry out road projects, Arab Land Transport Federation (ALTF) Secretary General Adnan Mufti said.

Discussing the recommendations of the seminar, which the ALTF held in Tartous last week, Mufti said the seminar adopted a number of recommendations related to safety on roads, providing services on international highways, and standardisation of road signs.

He added that the seminar also called for training personnel in the field of transport, including university courses related to this field, and improving public transport services.

The participants lauded the efforts the Arab transport ministers exerted through their recent endorsement of the strategy of transport in the Arab World.

In that context, the CAEU

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

- * An archaeological exhibition entitled "The Treasures of Hasma Desert" at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.
- * An art exhibition by three North African artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- * An art exhibition by Ahmad Abu Othman at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- * An art exhibition by Jordanian and Arab artists at Al Wasit Art Gallery.
- * An art exhibition entitled "Tents and Stones" by Samia Al Zara at Alia Art Gallery.
- * An art exhibition entitled "Study in Line and Colour" by Dodi Tabas at the Petra Bank Art Gallery.
- * An exhibition of paintings by mentally handicapped children at Nazek Al Hariri Special Education Centre.
- * The annual flower exhibition of YWCA at the Jordan International Hotel.
- * An exhibition of cartoons by Omar Sharif at the University of Jordan.
- * A lecture by Dr. Siegfried Steinmann on "Bertolt Brecht as a key figure in the 20th century theatre" at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

Sharif Zaid in Ma'an Government to slash unemployment

MA'AN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Thursday paid a visit to Ma'an which recently witnessed riots over price rises, and met with the governor and representatives of various sectors to discuss development plans and services to the people of the governorate.

The prime minister told a public rally in the city that the government was determined to overcome difficulties that impede the development of public services.

He said the government will deal with the problem of unemployment "by creating new jobs in coordination with the concerned parties; and was keen on maintaining open channels of dialogue and communication with the local residents" in compliance with His Majesty King Hussein's letter of designation to the government.

Sharif Zaid, who was accompanied on the visit to Ma'an by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masaadeh urged civil servants and government officials to provide all possible facilities for the public in their respective departments.

The prime minister promised government support to local organisations to establish agricultural cooperative societies which, he said, are designed to reclaim land and develop farmlands.

Sharif Zaid visited the municipality where he heard Mayor Mousa Fayyad outline the municipality's programmes and housing schemes and present requests and demands to help municipality pursue its endeavours.

The prime minister was briefed on the health services in Ma'an Governorate by its Governor Eid Al Qatarni with whom he reviewed the general conditions in the governorate.

The residents called on the government to start restoration work on the late King Abdullah's home in the city of Ma'an which would serve as one of the city's main landmarks.

Coinciding with the prime minister's visit, Ma'an held celebrations marking the country's Independence and Army Day and the Great Arab Revolt anniversary.

A public rally was held in the city square where poets recited verses and folk troupes presented a performance of songs and national dances.



Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Thursday meets Ma'an dignitaries during a visit to the governorate. Below, the prime minister is mobbed by the citizens of Ma'an (Petra photo)



CAEU reduces '89 budget; seeks to develop Arab Common Market

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In an attempt to reevaluate its course of action and reassess its internal structure in the face of shrinking funds and toughening economic conditions, the Council for Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Wednesday decided to reduce its 1989 budget by \$350,000 and to spend its 1990 \$1.15 million budget mainly on developing the Arab Common Market (ACM), setting up joint Arab projects and creating a wider base for economic cooperation in the Arab World.

"This would consolidate the basic structure of Arab economic action," CEAU Secretary General Hassan Ibrahim told a press conference Thursday marking the end of the council's 51st round of meetings here.

The ACM, he said, should be given its due role in boosting trade between CEAU members and other Arab countries through increased coordination, seminars and the execution of projects of commodity complementarity.

Joint Arab economic action, Ibrahim noted, had for years suffered because of the difficult economic conditions on both the regional and international levels.

In that context, the CEAU

semi-annual meeting has stressed that the way to face these conditions are through concentrating efforts on the works of regional economic groupings such as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU).

"We look positively at the establishment of regional economic groupings because their goals are congruent with the goals of the agreement for joint economic action," Ibrahim said. "These groupings present a new element in the context of joint Arab action," he added.

Ibrahim noted that regional groupings in other parts of the world, such as the European Common Market, were created in an attempt to deal collectively and comprehensively with economic difficulties through an enlarged basis of joint action.

He expressed hope that the GCC, ACC and AMU would complement achievements of the CEAU and said that further developing the ACM would have positive ramifications on the overall Arab economic situation.

A 1984 CEAU resolution called for the establishment of the ACM among the 13 member states in order to achieve free and unrestricted trade among Arab countries. But a statement issued last

year on the eve of the 23rd anniversary of the formation of the ACM said that despite its achievements, the ACM was still far below the aspirations of its member countries.

The secretary general described last week's two-day meeting as a turning point for joint Arab economic action. "I expect, and indeed I hope it is not merely false optimism, that the positive and effective period ahead of us will rejuvenate joint Arab action," he said.

The 13 members, he added, had responded positively to suggestions and demands of the general secretariat, especially in terms of financial contributions.

In other decisions arrived at during Wednesday's meeting, the council agreed to lay off 15 employees and cut the salaries of senior employees by up to 25 per cent in the face of the "drastic financial situation" it faces.

The CEAU is owed \$4 million in arrears from most of its 13 member states, and with its \$2 million debt has been unable to pay salaries for the staff during the past four months.

Lithuania, which Wednesday assumed the one-year rotating post of CEAU chairman, last week paid \$915,000 in dues to the cash-strapped body. Kuwait, which finances nearly a third of

the budget and owes the council \$1 million in arrears, was expected to resume its payments soon, Ibrahim said.

The UAE has already provided \$100,000 of the half a million it owes the council. Egypt, which was formally welcomed back into the Arab economic fold on Wednesday, has pledged \$224,000. Funding quotas for the CEAU budget were kept at the same level.

The council also urged its member states to offer greater trade concessions to products from the Israeli-occupied territories.

The council calls on Arab governments to offer maximum facilities and exemptions to agricultural and industrial products of the Israeli occupied territories as a gesture of support to the steadfastness of Palestinians under occupation," one conference resolution read.

The council, which in 1984 passed a resolution calling for the establishment of the ACM among its 13 members, also urged member states to facilitate trade among themselves.

The CEAU groups Jordan, Iraq, North and South Yemen, Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan, Libya, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

AMBC makes over \$2m in profits in 1988

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Maritime Bridge Company (AMBC), which groups Egypt, Iraq and Jordan, made \$2,116,108 in profits from its operations in 1988 which included the transportation of passengers and goods along the Aqaba-Nweibeh land-sea route, according to an announcement here Thursday.

The company's fleet of vehicles and ferry boats transported 646,603 passengers in the past year, registering an increase of 38.7 per cent over the 1987 operations, according to the announcement made during the company's general assembly meeting attended by ministers of transport here.

The announcement said also that the company last year transported 31,097 cars, 8,557 trucks and 2,284 buses on board the ferries operating between the two countries.

Egyptian Minister of Transport Suleiman Mitwalli described cooperation between the three countries through the company as "exemplary" and "reflecting their strong ties and determination to pursue efforts towards the achievement of further progress."

The three ministers held a separate meeting before the general assembly session during which they exchanged views on the company's operations. Kamash and Zubeidi earlier had a meeting with Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker to discuss transport issues.



Arab Maritime Bridge Company's general assembly Thursday meets in Amman (Petra photo)

Seminar to discuss conducting census

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and 10 other Arab countries and three U.N. organisations Saturday open a training seminar in Amman on organising and managing censuses and improving the skill and performance of personnel conducting censuses in West Asian countries.

The seminar has been organised by U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCPWA) and financed by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). Dr. Tayseer Abdul Jaber, ESCWA's executive secretary general, said that Jordan, Iraq, North Yemen, Syria, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Palestine will be represented at the seminar, in addition to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation, the United Nations educational Sci-

entific and Cultural Organisation UNESCO as well as ESCWA.

The seminar was organised in view of the rising cost of censuses conducted at the national level in the West Asian countries. Abdul Jaber said in a statement on the eve of the seminar.

The participants will discuss all aspects of work in the field of conducting a census and means of conducting this task at the minimum cost so as not to increase the economic and financial burden on the concerned governments.

He said that the participants will hear lectures on census work, planning programmes for census, the process of counting and registering homes and residents, and analysing and assessing the results of the census as well as the costs involved.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NURSES TRAINING PROGRAMME: Minister of Health and Social Development Zuhair Malhas has opened a nine-month training programme for nurses at the Health Ministry Teachers Training Institute in Amman in cooperation with the Italian government. The 12 enrolled nurses will be trained in caring for the sick. They will also attend lectures in health education, psychology, protection against communicable diseases, as well as the use of computers (Petra).

CULTURAL COOPERATION: The Jordanian Writers Association (JWA) President Thursday discussed with the first secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Amman means to promote cultural and scientific cooperation between the association and similar associations in Soviet Union. They also agreed to arrange for exchange of visits between Jordanian and Soviet writers and publish their works in both countries in Arabic and Russian. The Soviet first secretary expressed appreciation for the achievements the JWA attained in the field of culture and literature.

TOURISM IN AQABA: Tourism in Aqaba has hit a record high as people converged on Jordan's southern resort following measures to reduce hotel rates in the city. A number of people expressed support for all measures designed to encourage internal tourism, noting the need to improve facilities in the city (Petra).

NEW UNIVERSITY GRADUATES: A total of 1,953 students from the University of Jordan's Faculties of Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, Engineering, Medicine, and Agriculture graduated Thursday. Deans of these faculties delivered speeches on this occasion congratulating the graduates and explaining the role these faculties play in serving the Jordanian society and contributing to its progress. A total of 690 students from the faculties of Shari'a (Islamic Law), education, law, and physical education graduated Wednesday (Petra).

UNESCO PROJECTS: Minister of Education, Dr. Abdullah Nsour, and the Director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) for Education in the Arab World Dr. Mohammad Kazem, have discussed cooperation as well as projects the UNESCO intends to implement in Jordan (Petra).

Regional conference urges exchange of information on water resources

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates to a regional conference on improving training programmes and charting long term strategies on water resources concluded a four-day meeting in Amman by issuing recommendations, calling for greater measures of cooperation among countries of the Arab region and more training of technicians and workers in water-related projects.

The delegates called on the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

The delegates who represented the West Asia region called for an exchange of information on water resources, cooperation among the region's countries in conducting water survey and exploration and training of personnel employed in water development projects.

Addressing the closing session Thursday, Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammad Saleh Al Kilani echoed the delegates call for continued and closer cooperation between the countries of the West Asia region in water-related affairs, and said that his ministry was ready to take any move in this direction.

Kilani called on the Islamic Bank and ESCWA to provide financial and technical help for the creation of a regional centre that would organise training and provide better water-related services.

Several working papers were discussed by the meeting, which was addressed by an ESCWA representative, who stressed that the scarcity of water resources in West Asia region constituted one of the major obstacles that impede efforts to promote socio-economic development in the region.

Kilani told the meeting that the cost of water was continuing to rise in view of increasing demand and growing population, and Jordan's water needs were expected to triple by the end of the century.

Jordan Times

An independent Arabic political daily newspaper in English in the Jordan Press Foundation

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The heart of matter

THE INFORMATION REVOLUTION makes for hectic times. In the last two weeks China has erupted into chaos. The Soviets have opened their first parliament in seventy years. Poland has become the first Warsaw bloc country to allow opposition to contest elections. Ayatollah Khomeini has been buried amid gruesome scenes in Tehran. NATO and OPEC leaders have held important summits. Sometimes the news focus changes so fast it makes any attentive reader dizzy. Such an explosion of stimuli cannot be helped, and indeed in some ways is almost providential. Just as we live in the first age to be confronted by truly global issues — nuclear weapons, the ozone layer, the risk of population explosions — so we live in the first age that has been given the means of world dialogue and coordination via the information revolution. But it also has its costs, the most critical of which is blurring of the distinction between what is newsworthy and what is important.

Consider the Palestinian intifada from this angle. Every day in the West Bank and Gaza, there are more deaths, injuries, homes destroyed. But what happens everyday simply isn't news in the new world environment. It becomes a dull constant instead of a dramatic variable. It recedes into the nether layers of consciousness. This in turn makes it easier for the Israeli to play it down, world opinion is less pressing, and avoid those difficult decisions — even within Israeli society, the impact becomes normalised.

But the situation is at what pessimists call 'a critical juncture', and optimists 'a window of opportunity'. The Palestinian problem is eminently solvable — now. Israeli military chiefs assure their doubting public that a Palestinian state would not present a security challenge, the PLO has rallied cohesive and credible support for its initiatives. If no breakthrough is made during this period — and none can say how long it will last — there may not be another chance.

The psychological problem though is that the slow deterioration, the evaporation of an unprecedented chance of peace, is invisible. The Israeli public has absorbed the initial shock of realising that their sons and brothers were engaged in brutal acts of repression, that the army is an army of occupation. They have either confronted it openly, like the peace activists who support the Palestinian state, paranoically, like the settlers who want to throw indigenous Palestinians off their own land, or, like the vast majority in the middle, they have sublimated it. World opinion has been drawn elsewhere, and the U.S. foreign policy makers who could make such a difference no longer have the heat on them. There are, after all, always hotter issues.

For their part, it is not the first time Israeli policy makers have used diversions in the international media. The invasion of Lebanon in 1982 only received as much attention as it did because the British-Argentine war in the Falklands, with which it was timed to coincide, finished unexpectedly early. The intifada too has been punctuated by threats to attack Syria and Saudi Arabia which were obviously aimed at spreading fear of a full scale war in the Middle East.

In the next two weeks, or months, or years the Israelis can expect many more crises around the world, ready-made tragedies with instant analyses to feed an insatiable appetite for the new and the melodramatic. What is truly important to them, however, may become much more monotonous and much more banal.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday marked the beginning of the 19th month of the intifada. The Al Ra'i daily noted that the revolt has succeeded in bringing the Palestinian question to the forefront of most international forums. The struggle of the Palestinians against Israeli occupation is legitimate and formidable, the paper said. The paper referred to the statement made by Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, that the intifada was a common revolt that would be put down in no time. The paper noted, has proven Rabin wrong. It added that there can be no solution to the Palestine problem until Israel withdraws from the occupied territories and recognises the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

An Al Ra'i columnist Friday questioned the stand of the United States vis-a-vis the question of Palestine. Tareq Masarweh, asked why the United States objected so strongly against the treatment of the Chinese student protesters, while it has continuously failed to do same vis-a-vis the treatment of Palestinian children at the hands of Israelis. The writer points out that the United States is considering imposing sanctions against the Chinese government for its treatment of the Chinese students, who are demanding reforms and more freedom. This is in sharp contrast to the continuous moral, economic and political support that Israel receives, despite its continued occupation of a land which is not theirs, and the denial of the basic rights of the Palestinians.

Al Dustour daily commented Friday on the visit of Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker to the southern city of Ma'an Thursday. During his visit the prime minister inspected services, development plans and discussed the needs of local citizens. The paper noted that the visit enhances cooperation and understanding between the government and the people.

Detente is honey for the bear

By Ghadeer Taber
and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — The Arab-Israeli conflict does not figure very high in the Soviet agenda of priorities in the international scene, and Moscow's moves in the Middle East are well-calculated to avoid causing any harm to the new-found superpower detente, according to an American expert on Soviet affairs.

At the same time, there is no prospect in the "foreseeable future of the superpowers entering a deal" over the Arab-Israeli conflict and "imposing a solution" in the Middle East, argues Dr. Alvin Rubinstein, professor of political science at University of Pennsylvania who describes himself as a "Soviet camp follower" and a monitor of "Soviet instruments, priorities, successes and failures."

Rubinstein, author of several authoritative books on Soviet policy in the international scene, concedes that he is no expert when it comes to the intricacies of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and his assessment is drawn from decades of monitoring Soviet policy moves and strategic interests. "I have followed the Soviets everywhere; whether in the Far East, Asia, Africa or Latin America," he says.

He underlines that the Soviet Union does not face any "security threats" in the Middle East since it does not have borders with any of the parties directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict. That is one of the pillars of his argument that the issue is not of any major importance to Moscow.

At the same time, there is no common strategic interest or congruity of views between Washington and Moscow in the Middle East as a catalyst for a superpower deal in the region, he says. "I do not see any prospect for any deal or imposition of a solution in the Middle East in the foreseeable future, say in the next 10 to 15 years."

Rubinstein was in Amman last week and delivered two lectures — one at the American Centre and the other at the World Affairs Council — both on Soviet moves and policy in the Middle East. The main points he made at the lectures and a separate interview with the Jordan Times were:

Regional conflicts

— The Soviet Union under Mikhail Gorbachev has accepted that military might cannot produce long-term political solutions in any part of the world. But, Rubinstein argues, Gorbachev did not bring in this acceptance as a policy guideline with him when he assumed Soviet leadership and points out that the Kremlin chief signalled his desire to disengage from Afghanistan and Southern Africa (through the Cuban presence in Angola) only after concerted military drives in the two regions failed to achieve their goals.

He cites as examples the sudden flare-up of military actions in Afghanistan in late 1986 and 1987 and in the South African-Angolan-Namibian equation in mid-1987 as well as Soviet involvement in the Mozambican civil war.

— The priorities for the Soviets on the external scene begin with maintaining and further warming up the detente with the United States and include, in that order, better relations with China and the European states. By extension, Moscow is anxious not to undertake any action in the Middle East or any other region which could have an adverse impact on its ties with Washington, according to Rubinstein.

Iran — the special links

But, Iran is an exception simply because of its geographical location, bordering the Soviet Union. Rubinstein emphasised that the nosedive that Soviet-Iranian relations took in the immediate post-Iranian-revolution years was triggered by Tehran rather than Moscow, which very studiously avoided antagonising the theocratic

regime in Iran despite the strain in ties. The professor recalls that in the one year that lapsed between the July 20, 1987, adoption of a ceasefire resolution in the Iran-Iraq war by the Security Council and Iran's acceptance of the call in July 1988, the Soviet Union vehemently objected to any form of sanctions against Tehran as a punitive measure. Rubinstein interprets the Soviet position as a reflection of Moscow's anxiety not to undermine its search for rapprochement with Tehran.

— The Soviet Union's present relations with Iran and Iraq could only be described as "correct" and not as "good" or "excellent." Iran being a neighbour and Iraq being a partner in a treaty of friendship and cooperation in addition to being an Arab state, which could not be seen as ditched by the Soviets at its time of need in light of Moscow's links with the rest of the Arab World. Rubinstein refuses to credit Gorbachev for having achieved such a level of bilateral links with the two countries during and after the bloody eight-year war in the Gulf. He says both the superpowers, the Soviet Union in particular, were always "reacting to moves made by actors in the region rather than initiating any action."

In the same vein, he pays tribute to the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, "whose master diplomatic stroke" heralded the series of events that led to the ceasefire in the Gulf war. Rubinstein sees Kuwait's decision to secure Soviet and American protection for its oil and gas vessels against Iranian attacks as the singular move which, in due course of time, opened the Iranian eyes to the eventuality of direct superpower involvement in the conflict and convinced Tehran of the need to accept the ceasefire.

Impact of Afghan situation

— Contrary to the belief of many in the region, there is no possibility of resumption of normal relations between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union as long as the present Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah is in power in Afghanistan. Despite the Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan earlier this year, any Saudi move to normalise relations with Moscow will be seen as "a betrayal of the Mujahideen (Afghan rebel) cause," he asserts and also rejects the Soviet contention that reopening of the Soviet embassy in Riyadh and the Saudi diplomatic mission in Moscow is only a matter of formalities. His firm argument is that if the Soviet Union wants normalisation of ties with Saudi Arabia it will have to go along with an Afghan solution which does not have any high-profile involvement by Afghan Communists in the Kabul government.

According to Rubinstein, the Soviet Union is seeking a compromise formula to totally disengage itself from the Afghan scene while retaining some political links with whichever government comes to power in Kabul. Inclusion of Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDDA), an idea ruled out by the rebels, could be a way out for Soviet leadership, which is anxious to show to its people that politically it did not lose all in Afghanistan despite the obvious military defeat.

Another important aspect of the Afghan situation is the inevitability of Kabul, regardless of whoever is in power, having to turn to the Soviet Union for help sooner or later because of Afghanistan's traditional dependence on the Soviets for trade and other economic benefits. According to Rubinstein, no country, whether in the East or the West, will be any more interested in Afghanistan if and when Najibullah falls and the Mujahideen assume power. The professor agrees that there is little chance of such a Mujahideen government moving in any hurry to mend fences with the Soviet Union, but asserts that it will only be a matter of some years before Soviet-Afghan ties will return to the days of 1975 — strong trade and other relations and a limited, though not insignificant, Soviet political stay in Kabul's policies.

In a way, the emerging scenario from Rubinstein's assessment is that Moscow can afford to lift its hands off the Afghan situation at any time it chooses without having to worry about destroying all links with Kabul, but is reluctant to let go of it only because of domestic considerations.

— "Russian imperialism" still lingers around in the corridors of power in Moscow and it accounts for the stepped-up Soviet quest for better relations with the monarchies in the Arabian Gulf. Rubinstein does not agree with the argument that the Soviet Union might find itself as a net oil importer in the 1990s and thus is seeking to build solid bridges with the oil producers in the Gulf from now. "I do not agree with it," he said. "But, I may be wrong. Only time can tell."

Soviet-Israeli ties

— The Soviet Union finds itself in a dilemma when it comes to relations with Israel. "It was a mistake for Moscow to have cut relations with Israel in 1967," says Rubinstein, "since the absence of formal ties deprived the Soviets of the chance to play any effective diplomatic role in the region and its dispute."

But, it does not mean that the Soviets are now anxious to unilaterally restore ties with the Israelis. "It will be seen as giving in to the Israelis and a blow to the Arabs without serving any real purpose," according to Rubinstein. If anything, he adds, any such Soviet move will be seen with suspicion and cast serious doubts over Moscow's intentions. Hence the Soviet condition that Israel agrees to an international peace conference before Moscow resumes relations. However, Rubinstein expects Soviet-Israeli links to improve and grow stronger, but no prospects of resumed formal links in the next two or three years; the exception will be if Israel agrees to attend an international conference and thus offer the "excuse" the Soviets are looking for to justify resumption of formal ties with Israel.

The Syrian factor

— The Soviet Union's most valuable relationship in the Arab World is with Syria and Moscow is at pains to nurture and maintain it while trying to convince Damascus out of its goal of strategic parity with Israel. "The Soviet Union, I understand, has informed Syria of its intentions to scale down the supply of advanced weapons to Damascus," he said. Moscow is advising the Syrians to be more receptive to moves towards a political solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, according to the professor.

— The Arab World cannot expect any dedicated effort from either of the superpowers to settle the Lebanese problem. The U.S., "which burned itself very badly in Lebanon" from repercussions of the policy adopted by the Reagan administration, will shy from any prominent profile in Lebanon while the Soviet Union is happy with leaving it to Syria to pursue whatever course it finds fit to follow in Lebanon. Rubinstein doubts whether any other international power will intervene to any meaningful extent in Lebanon, and says "a solution has to come from within the Arab World" that "it will be a mistake to expect any serious effort from Moscow or Washington."

Moscow fears for China link, avoids condemning massacre

By Robert Evans
Reuter

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union's decision to stand aloof from worldwide condemnation of last Sunday's massacre of civilians by troops in Peking clearly reflects Kremlin fear of jeopardising its new ties with China.

That was the conclusion of informed Soviet journalists and analysts from East and West as Moscow's fledgling parliament issued a bland declaration saying the weekend events were a Chinese internal affair.

"Our leadership wants to avoid at all costs upsetting a relationship it has worked long and hard to re-establish," said one Soviet-China specialist. "And our number one has a personal stake in this after his visit to Peking."

The declaration was issued exactly two weeks after Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping shook hands in the Great Hall of the People to seal reconciliation between the long-squabbling Communist giants.

For Gorbachev, the visit was a triumph of his "new thinking" foreign policy through which he has broken out of a mould of fixed hostilities and often unnatural alliances cast by dogmatic predecessors.

But for the outside world, and for China itself, it was overshadowed by the surge of students and workers, many invoking the Soviet leader's own reforms, demanding that their own ageing rulers grant a measure of political freedom.

Gorbachev sought to avoid involvement, and Soviet reporters in Peking were told to focus on the visit and his set-piece encounters with Deng and other Chinese leaders and generally ignore the mounting "democracy protest," on the streets.

Since Sunday's bloody events in Peking, the otherwise increasingly outspoken media have again pulled in their horns — "largely because of the internal censor still inside all of us," said one journalist in a Moscow newspaper.

The dramatic photographs from Peking that were splashed across the front pages of newspapers across the world were largely missing from the Moscow press and Soviet television gave only a hint of the drama.

The declaration issued by the congress of people's deputies was clearly drafted under Gorbachev's guidance, and suggested

that other countries — and implicitly some Communist parties — condemning the bloodshed were misguided.

"Any attempt to bring pressure from the outside would be inappropriate. Such attempts only blow up passions and do not promote stabilisation of the situation in any way," said the declaration, passed by an overwhelming majority of deputies.

But it had its critics. One deputy, Moscow political journalist Yury Karyakin, told reporters that condemnation of killing anywhere in the world "is not interference in other people's affairs. These are our affairs also."

"We should use our moral weight. We would not necessarily endanger

our diplomatic relations. How can we talk about Latin American regimes if we are silent when such things are happening?" Karyakin said.

He was apparently referring to Tuesday's edition of the Communist party newspaper Pravda whose foreign news page was dominated by a photograph of a Santiago protest against Chile's military rulers.

Alongside a caption declared that Chilean democratic forces were subject to "repression by the military dictatorship" while at the bottom of the page another report gave the official Chinese version of the killings in Peking.

Most analysts discounted suggestion that Moscow might be seeking to replace the West and especially the United States as China's preferred partner by refusing to join the chorus of condemnation.

"We know perfectly well that

economically China's interests for



a long time ahead must lie with the West and the developed

countries of Asia," said one Soviet Sinologist. "And frankly, for us relations with the West are still top of the agenda."

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Learning the hard way... Palestinian girls at a Jabalia school

Both in South Africa and occupied Palestine children, whether non-white South Africans or Palestinians, suffer in diverse ways from political turmoil

Schoolgirls with broken dreams

Lessons on reality

Sarah Baxter recently returned from the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip. She reports on the impoverished prospects of young Palestinian girls whose education and thus emancipation are suffering.

PALESTINIAN weddings in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip are traditionally joyful, noisy and lavish affairs, arranged long in advance and attended by scattered relatives from the surrounding Arab world. Today, however, as the intifada (uprising) enters its 19th month, young teenage girls are leaving school to become wives and mothers and men are eager to acquire a "cheap" bride.

The deepening poverty, aggravated by curfews and strikes, has led the customary bride-price paid by groom to plummet, while parents, discouraged by the Israeli open-and-shut schools policy, are despairing of reasons to educate their daughters.

"Pre-intifada, a common bride-price was as much as £5,000. No expense was spared, even in the Strip's sorely overcrowded and impoverished refugee camps. Parents would often begin saving for their son's wedding from birth, while the groom would contribute a large proportion of his earnings."

Although love matches are permitted, most Palestinian girls are happy to follow their parents' hearts. Weddings are frequently the high point of their lives, when for once they are the centre of attention.

The bride, painted with chalky white foundation, bright red lipstick and peacock-blue eyeshadow, would twirl around on her wedding day in up to six different dresses, proudly displaying the groom's gifts of gold jewellery. At night, she would retire to a gaudy and luxurious bedroom, often fitted with shimmering mirrors, a dressing table, red lights and chandeliers.

But by now the uprising has exhausted family savings; unemployment is rife and few grooms can afford to pay more than £1,000. Receptions are quiet family affairs, the sparse bedrooms stay unfurnished and brides must content themselves with just one white wedding dress.

An educated girl used to command a higher price, not least because she was expected to raise intelligent sons, but while men rarely marry before their twenties, brides are getting younger and the clock is going back on emancipation.

Dressed in school uniform and clutching a notebook, 15-year-old Amira from Jabalia refugee camp looks only 12. In a few weeks, she will be married early to a 21-year-old family friend. "I can't get an education," she says simply, "so there's nothing else to do."

She is both excited and disappo-

tioned by the impending ceremony. "My sister's husband is very rich and she had four dresses

and a beautiful bedroom. He gave all my sisters gold bracelets." She acknowledges that her own wedding will be nothing like it.

Intisam, from neighbouring Beach Camp, is 16 and hoped to become a journalist, but she is now marrying her cousin at the end of the school year. The Israeli military authorities have closed Gaza's only university and her parents lack the money to educate her abroad.

"The wedding will be very quiet," she says gravely. "It wouldn't be appropriate to be

very happy. Maybe next door to us there is the family of a martyr."

For parents, the importance of educating girls had only just begun to take root, making it all the more vulnerable to the intifada's pressures. In the West Bank, all schools have been shut for over a year, while in the Gaza Strip, the ceaseless imposition of curfews and targeted school closures have meant that pupils sometimes receive only five days' instruction a month.

The authorities have accused schools of breeding stone-throwing street-fighters and "endangering the security of the Israeli Defence Forces". Palestinians counter that it is a form of collective punishment, designed to highlight the one precious resource that their children can benefit from.

Even the most determined students are at a loss. Samer, a

bright and articulate 18-year-old, recounts the solemn childhood pact she made with five girlfriends. She pledged to become a doctor, "to save people, to see them smile and to help the fedayeen (fighters)". Others dreamed of the law, science, teaching and journalism.

Only one has fulfilled her ambition: she wanted to be a mother. As for Samer, her father shakes his head: "She still dreams of being a doctor. She's very good at school, but she has little chance. She knows this."

The school closures have taken their toll on boys and girls alike. Gazans have learned to cope with tight curfews, which frequently last up to 10 days or more. The Strip falls silent, families remain stifled behind closed doors, unable to cross the street without risking getting shot. Suddenly, army loud-hailers announce that

the curfew is lifted and shoppers rush into the allyways to stock up on supplies.

The schools reopen, only to find that pupils have entirely forgotten the contents of their last lesson. And at the best of times they remain traumatised by the beatings, arrests and shootings they have seen.

Maryam, a teacher at a Jabalia girls' school, says: "Almost every girl has experienced some form of harassment or beating."

Many of her pupils have fathers or brothers in prison. "Sometimes you tell them to write something or study, but they can't concentrate."

She is not surprised when 14-year-olds vanish from her classroom. "We don't learn every day and the families feel that there's no education, so the girls marry," she says matter-of-factly — *The Guardian*.



Reporting from the blackboard jungle... Thandeka Gqubule in school

Laughing about their future

Chaos is developing in South Africa's black schools again with detentions of children and clashes between pupils and police and troops called in to maintain classroom "discipline." Class boycotts have flared up in the Cape, Bloemfontein and Johannesburg's huge Soweto township as well as other smaller towns and townships. In Cape Town, lawyers are preparing to seek a court interdict protecting schoolchildren after police last week twice used tear-gas to disperse pupils demanding improved facilities and the right to elect student representative councils. Councillors in the mother city's largest township, Khayelitsha, are accused of beating up pupils.

In Bloemfontein the detention of a popular teacher at one school has triggered a class boycott by more than 1,000 pupils. At another school in the judicial capital a boycott was called off when the principal and a member of staff resigned, after pointing guns at children. In Soweto, frustrated children tore up examination papers two weeks ago. Meetings called by teachers in the township to discuss the problems have been broken up by police.

A young South African journalist, Thandeka Gqubule, put on her old gymshoes and went back to school for two days in Soweto in an attempt to discover what was causing the crisis in black education. This is her report.

THE REDBRICK school was indistinguishable from many others in Soweto: monotonous and drab. A large group of pupils was gathered on an abandoned tennis court, laughing, joking and clapping their hands in rhythm. They were trying out "isikhamando", a new dance which has emerged from South Africa's prisons, invented by schoolchildren being held in detention without trial.

It was mid-morning and exam day in Soweto. For two weeks local children had been sitting the

mid-year exams set by the Department of Education and Training (DET), the government department responsible for the administration of black education in South Africa.

Nobody knew why the day's exams had not started. So they were coping with the cold of a southern hemisphere winter by dancing the isikhamando — the jerky movements of which made it look as if their heads would drop off and their arms would leave their bodies.

I thought I was adequately

dressed for school, in standard gym tunic, a simple black jersey and trendy boots. But I was not "with it."

"Leli jersey lakho yi PC?" asked one of the girls. (And that jersey, is it PC?)

"But what is PC?" I asked.

The amazement on her face was indescribable. "Hawu, Pierre Cardin," she said. She even had a Cardin label attached to her gymshoe. Status, status, particularly in Soweto — as if echoes of Paris and Rome will lighten the bleakness of a township. Style is everything.

Peroxide and glycerin

To be "in" among Soweto schoolgirls the tips of your hair have to be peroxidized — to give it a bronze look; eyebrows shaped with a razor blade; lips shimmering with glycerin. Shoes should have the ubiquitous Cardin label, or Gino Paoli, or anything Italian, but above all they must be kept shiny. Which is a skill in the dust of a township schoolyard.

A woman teacher with a small voice called out, telling the pupils to stop the dancing. They ignored her at first, but then moved towards the classrooms. Another teacher called out: "What are you all going to write?" The youngsters yelled back: "How should we know?" The teacher laughed.

Nobody has a copy of the exam timetable, but it would not have helped if they did, because there is no way of predicting when the exam papers will arrive, or if they will arrive at all.

I asked one pupil what she thought she would be writing if the exams did arrive. "I don't even know whether it'll be in vernacular or English," she said. "I don't know when we're going to write. I heard the teacher say something about 2pm. But they must be mad to think we'll still be here at that time. It's a holiday tomorrow, and I want to clear out of here fast."

I was taken to the Standard 7 classroom by a teacher (Neither the school nor the staff can be named — speaking to the press is an offence punishable by dismissal in South Africa's black schools). An exam was finally in progress. The room had no electricity, and was dark. The light-fitting hung dangerously loose.

As we entered, a pair of identical twins was leaving. They were going home, they told the exasperated teacher, "Because they

couldn't read what was written on the exam paper." The paper had been poorly reproduced that it was barely legible.

I saw plenty of such papers, where the typing or printing was so bad that whole lines, or even whole paragraphs, were unreadable. And even those papers which pupils could read were riddled with errors and inconsistencies.

Another teacher arrived to try and clarify mistakes in the Standard 7 Sotho [a vernacular language] exam. After explaining questions four and five, she told the children: "I cannot read question six, so speed up your gear, kids: move to top gear and skip number six."

"Well, let's seem number seven. If you haven't studied any of the books or poems in this question, skip it cause you cannot answer it."

The pupils started leaving after an hour. A small group of pupils were sharing — and discussing — a single exam paper; there were not enough to go around. More students left the classroom. The teacher looked at her watch and said, "You have very few minutes left now. Times is up. You now have only injury time." They all laughed.

By the end of the day, the register had still not been taken. It had not been a good day. The teacher seemed distraught. The Xhosa Standard 10 paper had been written, but page four had not arrived. The Tsonga [another vernacular language, with Xhosa] paper was even worse: only page four had arrived.

Business economics, which was to have been written in the morning, was rescheduled for the afternoon. But it was also payday and the teachers were eager to cash their cheques for the next day's public holiday. So when the paper only arrived after 1 p.m., they simply postponed it for two days. Nobody seemed bothered that it was a regional exam; other Soweto schools might write it on schedule and the pupils would be able to get the paper from friends before writing it themselves.

Frustration is deeply felt among the teachers. Heavy workloads make preparation almost impossible for them. "If you have to teach four different classes — each of up to 50 students — in four different subjects, and you have a minimum of 42 classes a week, when do you prepare?" said one. "The DET doesn't even know the children they're designing the system for ... the DET doesn't visit here as often as the

police do."

While I was at the school a white car arrived, three white security policemen got out and disappeared into the principal's office. It is a routine occurrence, according to pupils. It is widely believed in the schools that the education authorities have, in fact, ceded control to the secretaries of South Africa's shadowy Joint Management Security System.

The powerlessness of the teachers makes them a target for the anger of children. "Teachers are the only symbol of the education system that is immediately available," said one. "We give out the instructions. We are in the firing line."

As one group of pupils waited for their exam papers to arrive they teased one of their more

popular teachers. "Comrade Meneer, we will destroy all these windows if our exam paper does not come now!" Comrade Meneer shrugged and asked what they supposed he could do about it.

Other groups listening to the exchange began to laugh. It was a resigned laugh. As if they knew they were laughing about their future.

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Kuwait, UAE break ranks

Experts anticipate inter-OPEC cheating

TOKYO (R) — An OPEC agreement signed in Vienna Wednesday is merely a weak, temporary compromise which will make the oil group's next attempt to share out production quotas even harder, Far East oil experts said.

The accord failed to satisfy demands of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for a larger share of output this time and when the group meets later this year it will face demands from Iraq and Iran for bigger quotas, they said.

Meanwhile, Kuwait and the UAE will continue to pump far more than their allocated quotas.

Crude oil prices plunged more than 60 cents a barrel after the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed to raise its widely-flouted production ceiling by one million barrels per day (b/d), to 19.5 million bpd from July, with additional quotas allocated pro rata.

Kuwait signed the agreement with reservations.

Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah said in remarks published Thursday that Kuwait was not bound by its 1.09 million b/d production quota.

"We feel we are not required to accept this share," he was quoted as saying by Al Qahas newspaper.

Oil prices in Tokyo shed another 15 cents on the report.

Most oil industry sources in Tokyo said they didn't consider that OPEC had actually achieved any agreement.

"If Kuwait feels free to cheat, the UAE will cheat and it won't be long before everybody gets fed up and joins in," said one major oil company official based in Tokyo.

"OPEC didn't reach a firm commitment on the production quota and individual country's allocations," said Masaru Kai, a deputy general manager at Nippon Oil Company.

"Kuwait and the UAE cannot keep their production within these quotas and they will con-

tinue to produce at the current level," he said.

A Reuter survey estimated Kuwait pumped 1.9 million b/d in May, and the UAE, which has a new quota of 1.04 million b/d, pumped some 1.6 million b/d.

"Demand will be slightly less than 21 million b/d in the third quarter so the market price will not improve quickly, but it will not decline sharply," Tashiro said.

Nippon Oil's Kai said he also saw a slight oversupply in the third quarter but expected the price of a barrel of crude from the Middle East would average between \$15 and \$16.

GCC ministers differ on import tariffs

Riyadh (R) — Finance ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have failed to agree on the level of tariffs on imported goods.

Bahrain's Finance and National Economic Minister Ibrahim Abdul Karim, speaking to reporters after a one-day meeting, said talks covered duties on foreign imports.

"No specific measures were taken in this respect and consultations will continue in the hope of achieving results at the next meeting," he said. "There are still certain differences on the matter."

He recalled that agreement was reached three years ago fixing a maximum duty of 20 per cent and minimum of four. The group was supposed to agree set figures within five years but the GCC Supreme Council had been asked to extend the period.

Abdul Karim said ministers de-

cided to divide imports into four categories

GCC industry ministers last month approved guidelines to protect locally-made products and referred them to the finance ministers before implementation.

GCC imports jumped to \$43.8 billion in 1987 from \$34.1 billion in 1986, while exports rose to \$57.8 billion from \$44.6 billion.

Economists say around 41 per cent of GCC imports enter the area virtually duty-free while 47 per cent have a seven per cent tariff, two per cent have a 10 per cent customs duty and the rest carry the maximum 20 per cent rate.

Other questions dealt with by the ministers — from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — included negotiations with the European Community.

The deal OPEC signed Wednesday retained reference price of \$18 barrel for the next six months.

Cargoes of Dubai, the benchmark Middle East crude, are currently trading at around \$15.00.

Kai said prices could rise in the fourth quarter of the year because of higher demand if output remained around current levels, but there will be strong pressure on OPEC for another rise in production later in the year.

OPEC ministers will meet again in Paris in September to review the output ceiling.

By September the unresolved problem of Kuwait and the UAE's quota allocation will be further complicated by increased export capacities of Iraq and Iran.

"Iraq and Iran will insist on higher quotas as they will expand their production and export capacities later in the year," said Kai.

Motorists in Europe expect cheap petrol

Oil traders in Europe said that drivers, hit by a series of sharp rises in petrol prices last spring, may now be able to look forward to cheaper summer motoring.

As many prepare for long-distance road holidays, prices are falling at petrol pumps in West Germany, France, Switzerland and the Netherlands and energy analysts think further rises are unlikely for the time being.

The main exception has been Britain, where one source with a major British oil company cited the pound sterling's decline against the dollar as one reason for not cutting pump prices.

Trade sources say prices on the influential Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp oil spot market — where oil companies and traders to go top up supplies — have tumbled to around \$18 a barrel from a four-year peak in late April of around \$22.

Oil companies passed the early spring increases on to their cus-

tomers by raising pump prices.

Traders say spot petrol markets jumped partly because of higher crude oil prices after signs of growing unity among OPEC oil producers, the Exxon Valdez tanker oil spill off Alaska, and a string of supply disruptions in Britain's North Sea.

U.S. air pollution restrictions and maintenance closures at European refineries also pushed up prices at filling stations.

Retail prices are now falling against after highs in early May.

"Petrol prices are stable with a sinking tendency, despite the strong dollar," said Eric Zanetti, spokesman for Shell (Switzerland) Zurich.

He said Rotterdam spot market prices were stable but that given the market's volatility, it was not possible to look further than a week or two ahead.

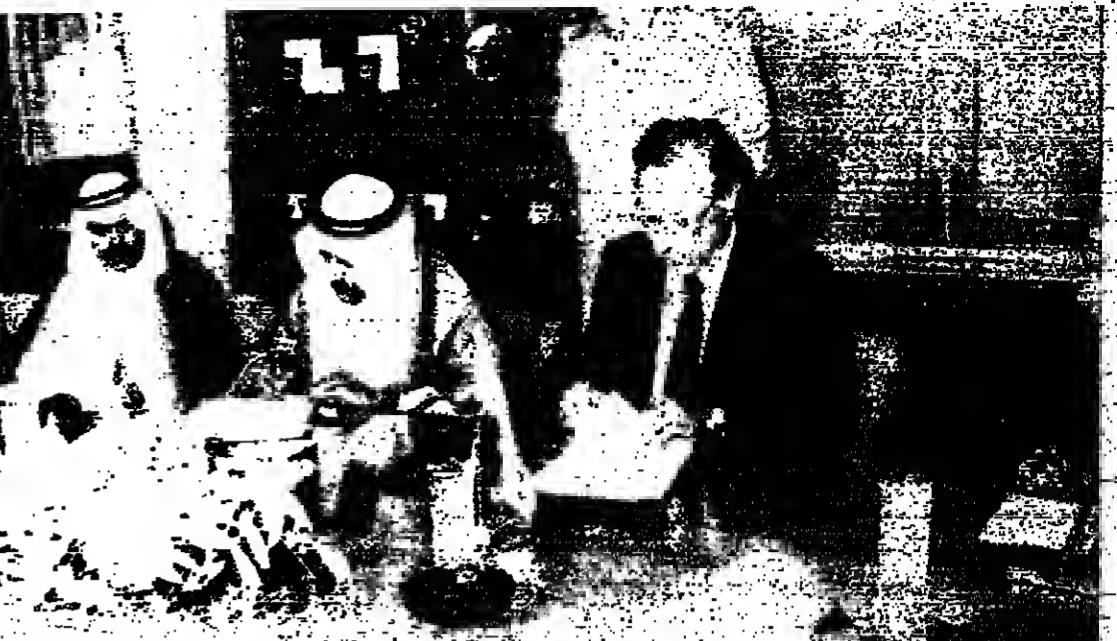
Some industry sources were reluctant to forecast the summer prices trend. "It seems stable at moment, but the rising dollar cannot help things any," a spokesman for one oil company said.

Dutch drivers may have to pay more if an environmental protection programme unveiled May 25 comes into force.

In Britain, prices at the pump have not fallen but have stabilised at around 43 pence (68 cents) a litre for leaded super grade, up from 37.5 pence (59 cents) in January.

"If prices go up on the spot market we see an immediate effect at the pumps which might be justified," said a spokesman for the British car drivers' group the Automobile Association.

"We would like to see an equally quick reaction in pump prices when oil (spot market) prices come down," he concluded.



Jordan's Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad Inab (right) and UAE Economy and Trade Minister Seif Ali Al Jarwan sign the bilateral agreement (Petra photo)

Jordan, UAE boost ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have reached initial agreement to promote trade and economic cooperation between them.

Under the terms of the agreement, signed at the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Amman Thursday, Jordan and the UAE will encourage the exchange of national agricultural and industrial products between them.

The agreement covers providing facilities for the transportation of national goods across their respective territories and also calls for cooperation between concerned authorities in either country to exchange expertise. In addition, the accord stipulates exerting efforts in conducting economic research and providing facilities for the free flow of capital by businessmen and investors in either country.

The main areas where cooperation will be conducted according

to the agreement: Tourism, trade, economy, industry and import-export operations.

Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad Inab and UAE Economy and Trade Minister Seif Ali Al Jarwan signed the agreement which also includes guidelines for the two countries to participate in exhibitions and fairs held in either country to promote the sale of national goods.

Finally, it was agreed to form a joint committee that would follow up the implementation of the agreement and provide recommendations and resolutions in this respect.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

	Thursday, June 8, 1984 Central Bank official rates	
	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	565.3	571.3
Pound Sterling	889.5	896.4
Dentschmark	286.6	289.5
Swiss franc	330.5	333.8
French franc	845	85.3
Japanese yen (for 100)	395.8	399.8
Dutch guilder	254.5	257.0
Swedish crown	65.0	65.9
Italian lira (for 100)	39.4	39.8
Belgian franc (for 10)	137.3	138.7

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	June 3-7	May 27-31
Daily average	ID 1,208,333	ID 1,436,001
Total volume	ID 6,041,164	ID 7,343,780
Total shares	3,868,432	4,298,735
No. of contracts	4,275	4,823
	Sectoral trading:	
Industrial	ID 4,290,947	ID 5,169,405
Financial	71.0%	(65.6%)
Service	ID 638,748	ID 1,208,840
Insurance	(10.6%)	(22.2%)
Share price index	127.2	125.8
No. of companies	65	66
Price movement (rise)	31	18
(decline)	20	35
(stable)	14	13

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

	LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.	
One Sterling	1,5610/20	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1,1952/62	Canadian dollar
	1,9890/900	Deutschmarks
	2,2390/400	Dutch guilders
	1,7235/45	Swiss francs
	41,63/68	Belgian francs
	6,7375/425	French francs
	144,88/1449	Italian lire
	144,70/80	Japanese yen
	6,7000/50	Swedish crowns
	7,1900/50	Norwegian crowns
	7,7325/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	370,50/371,00	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Volatile trading in News Corporation dominated the market. At 0515 GMT, the All Ordinaries index was unchanged from Thursday's close of 1,544.5.

JAPAN — The market could not hold on to early gains and share prices languished in very light trading to close mixed. The Nikkei index erased 78.31 points to close at 33,639.98.

HONG KONG — Stocks rose after Chinese Premier Li Peng appeared on television on Peking, suggesting hardliners were in control. "The market thinks hardline control is better than no control at all," said a broker. The Hang Seng index rose 43.72 to 2,268.38.

SINGAPORE — Shares staged a strong rebound. The Straits Times industrial index rose 34.10 points to close at 1,241.21 after falls earlier in the week.

BOMBAY — Share prices moved narrowly and ended mixed in a dreary market which opened a half-hour late after monsoon rains disrupted morning traffic. Tata Steel rose 10 rupees to 1,360.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended their third week of sharp gains mixed. Many investors were unwilling to take new positions before the weekend and Friday's release of U.S. May producer prices. A power cut prevented computation of the DAX index.

PARIS — Prices were firmer by mid-session in relatively active trading boosted by selective buying of special-interest stocks.

ZURICH — Shares closed firmer across the board on high volume, with the stabilisation in interest rates continuing to attract buyers. The all-share Swiss index rose 11.2 to 1,065.5.

LONDON — Shares turned mostly easier in volatile afternoon trading after a much larger than expected gain in May U.S. producer prices sent the dollar climbing and quashed hopes of an early cut in U.S. interest rates. At 1449 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 0.2 at 2,143.6.

NEW YORK — Stocks showed little change in an up-and-down morning session. The Dow was around its Thursday close of 2,517.

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Judge in America Cup probes fairness

NEW YORK (R) — A panel of appeals judges heard arguments Thursday from lawyers representing the San Diego yacht club and New Zealand's Mercury Bay boating club in an effort to determine the future of the America's Cup.

Five judges from the appellate division of the New York Supreme Court must decide what constitutes a "fair" contest for yachting's oldest and most prestigious trophy and whether an even contest is mandated by the deed of gift — the rules governing the regatta.

A contest between a catamaran and a monohull is "like racing a Ferrari against a dump truck," George Tompkins argued on behalf of Mercury Bay.

Tompkins said that "fairness is the heart of the deed."

But Justice E. Leo Milonas questioned Mercury Bay's sincerity in its desire for fairness.

Milona asked Tompkins if it were fair to challenge San Diego with a 90-foot boat, knowing the defenders' intentions were to stage the next regatta in the traditional 12-metre yachts.

Tompkins said there was nothing in the deed that prohibits that size. "It's a challenge cup not an invitation," he said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND CHAR SHARIF
© 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦32 ♦A1093 0A65 ♦AQ83

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♡ Pass

What do you respond?

A.—While you have the strength and distribution for a jump in two no trump, your prime values suggest that a suit contract might be better. Start a probe by bidding two clubs.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦32 ♦A1093 0A65 ♦AQ83

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♡ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—With only a single diamond stopper and one tenace, don't commit the hand to no trump yet. Just bid three hearts and see what partner does.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦32 ♦A1093 0A65 ♦AQ83

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♡ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—The time has come to commit the hand to game—but not three no trump. Partner's bidding has shown a good six-card or longer spade suit, and probably no diamond stopper. Since you have at least an eight-card spade fit, bid four spades.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦32 ♦954 0KQ1093 ♦84

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♡ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—With only a single diamond stopper and one tenace, don't commit the hand to no trump yet. Just bid three hearts and see what partner does.

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By Harris

HARRIS 6-19

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HESAF

I'm just fine, but I don't want any more of that beast!

LUTOC

HORSEBACK RIDING IS A SPORT THAT SOMETIMES MAKES THE NOVICE FEEL THIS.

EMBLUF

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

YARTTE

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: AGLOW WOVEN NOODLE MOTIVE
Answer: When they gave that huge bang in China, how much did the food weigh?—WONTON (one ton)

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Maradona inspires Napoli to first leg win

NAPLES, Italy (R) — Diego Maradona set up a second half goal to give UEFA cup winners Napoli a 1-0 win against holders Sampdoria in the first leg of the Italian Cup final Wednesday. The Argentine, forever inspirational, directed a cross from a short corner towards Libero Alessandro Renica, who found space in a crowded area to head the ball past goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca. The 55th minute goal made Napoli favourites for the return leg on June 28, which will be played in Milan because of building work at Sampdoria's stadium in Genoa for next year's World Cup finals. Sampdoria, losing European Cup winners' cup finalists, twice tested Napoli goalkeeper Giuliano Giuliani in the first half with five headers from Brazilian midfielder Toninho Cerezo.

British trainers fancied in Prix De Diane

PARIS (R) — Following Old Vic's spectacular success in last week's Prix Du Jockey club, Enstone and Pass the Peace will be strongly fancied to give British trainers a classic double in Sunday's Prix De Diane over one mile two-and-a-half furlongs at Chantilly. No outstanding French filly has emerged this season and the main hopes of a home victory in the equivalent of the English Oaks are Bellarida, Louvetiere and Rose de Crystal. Enstone, ridden by Ray Cochrane, has sound form. Totally unsuited to the sedate early pace of the English 1,000 Guineas in which she finished fourth, the Sheikh Mohammed-owned filly showed her class with a comfortable win in the Irish 1,000 Guineas at the Curragh on May 27. An extra two-and-a-half furlongs will be firmly in her favour Sunday and she has every chance of competing the double.

Mercedes to start Le Mans from front

LE MANS (R) — Mercedes will start the 57th Le Mans 24-hour motor race from the front row of the grid after beating the on-form British Jaguars in two nights of qualifying. The team, which withdrew its cars from last year's race after a high-speed tyre blowout in practice, returned to the French road circuit in triumph with two of its three cars at the head of the 60 entries. Jean-Louis Schlesser of France will be in pole position for Saturday's start but fastest man at Le Mans was northern Irishman Kenny Acheson, who took his Mercedes through the speedtrap on the daunting Mulsanne straight at 404 KPH. "I didn't notice the speed. The car was rock-steady, and I just sorry the rest of the lap was not quick enough to give me pole," Acheson said. His time was just .63 of a second slower than Schlesser's record three minutes 15.04 seconds for the 13.6-km circuit.

Swazi footballer abducted at gunpoint

MBABANE (R) — A Swazi soccer player has been abducted at gunpoint from a training session with his new club in what appears to be a dispute over transfer fees, club officials said Friday. The incident happened Wednesday when Samuel Chippa Dlamini turned out to train with first division club Mbahane Highlanders. Local newspaper reports, confirmed by club officials, said two men armed with a pistol rushed on the field and hustled Dlamini into a waiting car. The player, transferred from second division club Two Sticks Comrades, has not been seen since. There has been no comment from police.

FORCAST FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

by Thomas Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Many will arise today with good intentions to complete a list of practical activities. Productive energy may get scrapped as the day moves along. Expect formal routines to change in favor of merriment.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Contemplate a ripe financial move over the weekend. Invite a few guests over who are intellectually stimulating. You will have fun.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Perhaps much more damaging than the loss of game two, however, was the injury to Los Angeles superstar and league most valuable player Earvin (Magic) Johnson.

TAU (Apr. 20 to May 20) If you don't feel true love in a relationship, be honest with yourself and the other person. Deliberation will give you the answers.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You will be happy if you straighten out your personal affairs. Before you go out, catch up on delinquent paper work, record keeping, etc.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You may be in a forgetful mood. Double-check and don't leave anything behind. Handle siblings in a democratic manner.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Your gracious mood can override any situation today, especially when you must deal with someone who is frivolous and petty.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Your friendly mood is mischievous which

makes you lighthearted and fun to be with. Your devotion is appreciated by family members.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You may prefer a mobile vehicle with an emphasis on humorous entertainment. Organize yourself early in the day.

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No danger of coups, Gorbachev tells deputies

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Friday assured the Soviet parliament he was not threatened by a coup and demanded an end to rumours that he was in danger of losing power.

In a speech to the Congress of People's Deputies, Gorbachev said the Communist Party Central Committee backed him as did the party's ruling politburo.

"I must assure you that the Central Committee shares the position of the politburo that there is no danger of coups. Let us put an end to rumours," he said.

"According to rumours I have been killed not less than seven times and my entire family not less than three times," he said. "It is especially impermissible when deputies have a hand in such evil rumours."

Gorbachev did not elaborate and it was unclear whether some fresh rumour about the president and Communist Party chief had been making the rounds of the congress.

But Russian author Valentin Rasputin earlier this week asked Gorbachev to address suggestions that he was threatened by a coup and said it was obvious a struggle for power was going on among top leaders.

Rasputin referred to complaints by historian Roy Medvedev that every time Gorbachev left Moscow

council, government and party policy reversed itself.

"You did not answer Medvedev's declaration that every time you left Moscow, especially with [politburo member Alexander] Yakovlev, there appeared a situation close to a coup. Is it so?" Rasputin asked Gorbachev in the debate Wednesday.

Yakovlev, chief of the Communist Party Commission on International Affairs, is one of Gorbachev's closest advisers.

Gorbachev Friday also indignantly denied he was hungry for personal power.

"As a communist, I categorically reject the hints (that) I am trying to concentrate power in my own hands," Gorbachev told the nationally televised session of the congress.

"This is alien to me, to my views, my outlook, and my character," Gorbachev said. "I, as general secretary and president, have no other policy than perestroika, democratisation and glasnost."

"In this, I see the point of my life and my work."

In a rousing speech on what

was planned to be the last day of the Soviet congress' inaugural session, Gorbachev said he understood the dissatisfaction that deputies had expressed over the past two weeks.

But he said the congress marked a "new stage of perestroika," his political and economic reform programme, and would move the country further "along the road of glasnost," or greater openness, and democracy.

The new parliament's raucousness, unprecedented in Soviet politics where lawmakers traditionally have been just cogs in the Kremlin machinery, reached an emotional peak Thursday when about two dozen Baltic deputies stormed out.

Author Rasputin in his speech Wednesday also referred to attacks during the congress on politburo member Yegor Ligachev and suggested the conservative Siberian had been singled out to be eliminated from power.

"There is no need to remind you who will be next," Rasputin added ominously.

Ligachev was ridiculed during the congress by one deputy who said he was incompetent and was limited by another deputy with a massive corruption investigation.

He was once Kremlin ideology chief but was demoted in a reshuffle last autumn and given the difficult task of directing policy on Soviet agriculture.

The walkout reflected the heated opposition by some deputies to the Communist Party establishment that runs the session and nominates committee members and other officials.

In other tough talk Thursday, a radical economist said the country should cut aid to the Kremlin's Latin American allies and pay farmers in foreign currency to

and many black schools operate with security force members present at all times.

Botha imposed the emergency after troops and police rumbled into black townships on June 12, 1986. The townships were visibly scarred by two years of strife which flared when anti-government rioting broke out in September 1984.

Reporters were barred from any point within sight of widely-defined "security force action" and forbidden to publish anything deemed by the government to be a subversive statement.

Photographers and television cameramen were escorted from townships, detained and sometimes beaten as police occupied schools and universities while soldiers patrolled township streets in giant armoured personnel carriers.

At night, security force searchlights swept townships from hillside military camps and police carried out door-to-door searches for activists who had evaded detention without trial.

Allegations of torture have been widespread throughout the emergency, but press curbs prohibit the reporting of torture claims until they have been accepted as accurate by a judge or magistrate.

About 30,000 people, almost all of them black and some as

young as 10, have been detained without charge or trial for periods of a few days to three years.

'Uneasy calm'

At present, 32 of the country's biggest dissident groups are effectively banned, some 600 radical black political leaders have been silenced by house arrest and political meetings are prohibited in most townships.

"Jackboot repression will not dull the instinctive rebelliousness against the tyranny of apartheid," said Jakes Gerwel, rector of the coloured (mixed-race) University of the Western Cape. "The apparent calm ... is an uneasy one."

Fatima Meer, professor of sociology at the University of Durban, told Reuters that emergency rule had helped to create a generation of children immune to violence and death.

"I shudder to think what will happen to our country when these children grow up. What sort of a society can one have with people who have grown up amid such violence and brutality," she said.

Botha gave no indication whether there would be any changes in the regulations, which make it illegal to call for boycotts or foreign sanctions, to seek to undermine the defence force, to report on police activity or unrest

without permission, to attend outdoor gatherings, to hold banners or wear T-shirts bearing prohibited political slogans.

A senior police official, Johan van der Merwe, told a news conference that all 32 organisations banned in the past three years would remain restricted.

He also said restrictions including house arrest, prohibitions on the right to work, speak publicly, participate in political activity, or travel would be reimposed on about 500 people.

About 30,000 people, almost all of them black, have been detained without charge for varying lengths of time during the emergency. After hunger strike among detainees earlier this year, hundreds were freed, but restrictions were placed on their activities.

Law and Order Ministry spokesman Leon Mallet said at the end of May that 71 people were in detention under emergency regulations which allow them to be held indefinitely.

Solidarity ran in the first elections contested by the opposition for 42 years under a reform pact which also allowed it to be re-elected after a seven-year ban.

The union won 160 of the 161 Sejm seats it was allowed to contest and 92 of the 100 seats in the new Senate (upper house). Its candidates made it into runoff voting June 18 for all the nine seats which it did not win outright.

By contrast, only two communists and three members of the Allied Peasants Party won outright on the first round, according to official results.

Solidarity, led by union leader Lech Walesa, made the agreement in defiance of hundreds of members who flooded union offices across the country with angry phone calls claiming they were giving in to the government and cheating the electorate.

"The agreement was about to fall apart," Zbigniew Bujak, a top Solidarity leader, told reporters as he emerged looking tired.

Police confiscated film and temporarily detained a photographer and others who attended a news conference and rally against reimposition of the emergency held at St. Mary's Anglican Church in downtown Johannesburg Thursday.

Botha renews repressive state of emergency for fourth year

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — President P.W. Botha extended the national state of emergency for a fourth year Friday, saying revolutionaries still exert influence in the nation although widespread violence has stopped.

"I want to emphasise that the reason for the existence of the state of emergency should be blamed on the 'terrorist' organisations and their internal allies and not on the government," Botha said in a statement made public at midnight. "It remains the resolute aim of the government to terminate the activities of the revolutionaries."

The emergency rule has forced a black uprising against white rule off the world's nightly television news and created an impression of calm in the country.

Even before Botha imposed nationwide emergency rule in June, 1986, burning roadblocks, children confronting heavily-armed soldiers with stones and mass funerals for demonstrators killed by police were familiar sights.

Three years of sweeping press curbs, mass detentions and bans on most forms of political protest have projected a less violent image abroad.

But police and soldiers continue to patrol townships where riots still flare from time to time

and many black schools operate with security force members present at all times.

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Light at the other end of the AIDS tunnel

MONTREAL (AP) — A vaccine developed by polio pioneer Jonas Salk may help wipe out the AIDS virus in people already infected and stop them from getting the deadly disease, according to preliminary research presented Thursday.

"It is becoming clear that a diagnosis of HIV positivity need not be regarded as a death sentence," Salk said.

Salk's approach is one of several newly reported developments that experts say raises hopes that an AIDS vaccine is possible, if still far away.

If the vaccine works as Salk hopes, it will stimulate the body to hunt down its own blood cells that carry HIV, the AIDS virus. Such cells are virus-making factories inside the body, and wiping them out could hold the virus in check, preventing it from spreading and causing

infected individuals," he said.

While cautioning that this and other animal studies need to be confirmed, he added, "they are the beginning. I believe, of piercing the armour that has existed that it would be impossible to protect against this class of virus."

The latest vaccine studies were described at the week-long fifth international conference on AIDS.

Salk's animal studies, conducted with Dr. Clarence Gibbs of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, were performed on three chimps.

Two of them had already been infected with HIV when they received the vaccine. After three injections, all measurable signs of the virus disappeared. And when scientists gave them more virus, they did not become reinfected.

"This suggests it is possible to deal with the virus in already-

infected individuals," he said. While cautioning that this and other animal studies need to be confirmed, he added, "they are the beginning. I believe, of piercing the armour that has existed that it would be impossible to protect against this class of virus."

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